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Message Text

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53
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 NIC-01 DRC-01

/066 W
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R 171220Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6090
INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, AR
SUBJ: LABOR DEMOCRACY AT WORK

REF: A. BA 2347; B. BA A-96.

1. SUSPENDED RAILWAY WORKERS (UF) PRESIDENT MEDINA AND HIS FOLLOWERS WERE FORCEFULLY EJECTED FROM UF HEADQUARTERS EVENING APR 15 BY POLICE WHO USED ARMOURED CAR TO BREAK THROUGH BARRED DOORS. POLICE ACTION FOLLOWED MEDINA'S REFUSAL TO RESPECT COURT ORDER DEMANDING HEADQUARTERS BE TURNED OVER TO RIVAL GROUP HEADED BY CGT SUBSECGEN RAVITTI. WITH UF HEADQUARTERS NOW UNDER HIS CONTROL, RAVITTI WILL HAVE FULL CONTROL OF ELECTORAL APPARATUS FOR FORTHCOMING UF ELECTIONS. (REF A).

2. COMMENT: RAVITTI ACTION HIGHLIGHTS INCREASED IMPORTANCE OF CONTROL OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES IN UNION ELECTIONS. FOLLOWING PASSAGE OF REVISED LAW OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (REF B), AN INCREASING NUMBER OF UNIONS HAVE CALLED SPECIAL CONGRESSES TO ADAPT UNION STATUTES TO NEW PROVISIONS OF LAW. THE MOST IMPORTANT CHANGES SET UNION LEADERS TERM OF OFFICE AT FOUR YEARS, AND REQUIRE THAT PETITION SIGNED BY TWENTY PERCENT OF
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MEMBERS IN EACH AND EVERY LOCAL OF NATIONAL UNION BE PRESENTED BEFORE SLATE OF CANDIDATES CAN BE PUT ON BALLOT. LATTER PROVISION

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HAS BARRED OPPOSITION FROM PRESENTING CANDIDATES IN RECENT METAL WORKERS (UCM) ELECTIONS, AND IS EFFECTIVELY BEING USED TO SAME END IN FORTHCOMING AUTOMOTIVE (SMATA) AND STATE PETROLEUM (SUPE) UNION ELECTIONS. IN BOTH UOM AND SMATA CASES UNION ELECTORAL BOARD FOUND "DEFICIENCEIS" IN OPPOSITIONIST LISTS, AND REJECTED THEM OUT OF HAND. ALTHOUGH RELATIVE STRENGTH WITHIN UNION OF RAVITTI AND MEDINA IS NOT CLEAR, RAVITTI'S PRESENT POSITION SHOULD ASSURE HIM OF ALMOST CERTAIN SUCCESS IN FORTH-COMING ELECTIONS.
HILL

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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